

Message Text

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ORIGIN INR-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 NEA-14 IO-14

SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-02 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01

SP-03 /092 R

DRAFTED BY INR/RNA:AVACCARO

APPROVED BY S/SO -O: R. ELTZ

NEA/ARN:DKORN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 101859

TOSEC 686

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR,XF

SUBJECT: ARAB WORLD REACTION TO MA'ALOT INCIDENT

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

REF: JERUSALEM 0892

1. FOLLOWING IS ROUNDUP OF ARAB REACTIONS AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT AS OF 2300 EDT. FURTHER REACTIONS WILL BE REPORTED IN SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAMS.
2. MENA REPORTS ON CAIRO RADIO AND INA REPORTS ON BAGHDAD RADIO HIGHLIGHTED VARIOUS STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO PDFLP. BAGHDAD VOICE OF PALESTINE BROADCAST PRAISE FOR THE "HEROES OF MA'ALOT." DAMASCUS DOMESTIC SERVICE MONITORED SO FAR SIMPLY NOTED "ENEMY GOVERNMENT (ISRAELI) HAS BETRAYED ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLEDGE TO THE THREE FEDAYEEN" BY ATTACKING THE BUILDING

THEY OCCUPIED.

3. LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER ISSUED PRESS STATEMENT EXPRESS-
ING SURPRISE AT ISRAELI CLAIMS THAT FEDAYEEN AT MA'ALOT HAD
INFILTRATED FROM LEBANON. FOLLOWING TWO LEBANESE CABINET
SESSIONS TODAY, INFORMATION MINISTER READ STATEMENT
ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE STRONGLY CONDEMNING RECENT
"RECURRENT ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST THE SOUTHERN VILLAGES"
OF LEBANON. AMBASSADOR KABBANI CALLED DEPARTMENT THIS
AFTERNOON TO DEPLORE THE TERRORIST ATTACK AND TO COMPLAIN
THAT LEBANON WAS BEING UNJUSTLY BLAMED--TERRORISTS, HE SAID,

DID NOT COME FROM LEBANON.

4. INITIAL EGYPTIAN AND JORDANIAN REACTIONS REFLECT
PRO-PALESTINIAN SLANT WITH NO EXPRESSIONS REGRET. FIRST
ARAB PRESS REACTION CONTAINED IN THURSDAY EDITION CAIRO'S
AL-AHRAM. ARTICLE CALLS ON WORLD TO APPRECIATE THAT MA'ALOT
OPERATIONS DRAWS ATTENTION TO NEED FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS A
REPRESENTS NATURAL REACTIONS OF PEOPLE "LIVING A REAL
TRAGEDY FOR TWENTY-SIX YEARS." AL-AHRAM BLAMES ISRAEL FOR
"BIGGEST CRIME" OF DISPERSING PALESTINIANS. ALONG WITH
REPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES, AMMAN RADIO
CHARACTERIZED STORMING OF SCHOOL HOUSE AS ISRAELI
"DECEPTIVE OPERATION."

5. BAGHDAD DOMESTIC SERVICE PLAYED UP RESPONSE OF
FEDAYEEN UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR MA'ALOT INCIDENT TO
SECRETARY'S CONDEMNATION. FEDAYEEN UNIT SAID TO RIDICULE
SECRETARY'S "ANGER OVER OPERATION," WHICH IT SAID CONFIRMS
US HOSTILITY TOWARD ARAB NATIONS.

6. DAMASCUS MENA CARRIED PROCEEDINGS OF MAY 15 PRESS
CONFERENCE BY PDFLP COMMAND MEMBER. SPOKESMAN PRAISED
"SYRIA'S NATIONALIST STAND" (INSISTENCE ON TOTAL ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL) AND "STEADFASTNESS OF SYRIAN ARMED FORCES."

7. BAGHDAD VOICE OF PALESTINE INEXPLICABLY ATTACKS
PDFLP HEAD NAYIF HAWATIMAH AS WEAK AND DEFEATIST. UNCLEAR
WHETHER CRITICISM DIRECTLY RELATED TO PDFLP ROLE AT
MA'ALOT. WE UNAWARE HAWATIMAH HAS MADE ANY STATEMENT IN
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CONNECTION WITH MA'ALOT AFFAIR. HE NEVERTHELESS ACCUSED
OF "EXPOUNDING STRANGE THEORIES" UNCONNECTED WITH
PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION.
RUSH

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